

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 091158Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1704

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5282

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PINT KU IZ UK

SUBJECT: KUWAITI-IRAQI TENSIONS

REF: LONDON 15990

1. THREE DAYS AFTER SEEING ME (KUWAIT 5227 NOTAL) FONMINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD TOLD BRIT AMB LAMB THAT IRAQI AMBITIONS REGARDING KUWAIT WERE LIKE CANCER, IMPLACABLE AND SPREADING. FONMIN CONVEYED SENSE OF FRUSTATION IN FACE INTENTIONS OF IRAQ AS HE SEES THEM NOT ONLY TO HOLD ON TO SMALL STRIP OF KUWAITI COASTLINE ALREADY TAKEN SOUTH OF UMM QASR BUT TO ACQUIRE WARBA ISLAND AND PART OR ALL OB BUBYAN ISLAND. (WE HAVE BEEN TOLD IRAQ IN EXCHANGE MAY TRY TO BUY OFF KUWAIT WITH COMPENSATING PEICE OF LAND IN AREA NORTH OF SAFWAN).

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2. IN RECENT TALK WITH AMBASSADOR HELMS HERE IN KUWAIT, FONMIN

ALSO CONVEYED DEEP SENSE OF CONCERN OVER IRAQI INTENTIONS AND HE
SEEMED PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT LEADERSHIP IN IRAQ AFTER
DEMISE OF PRES BAKR.

3. COMMENT: HOWEVER FCO OR OTHERS MAY SIZE UP THE REAL DANGER
FROM IRAQ, THE KUWAITIS ARE INCREASINGLY WORRIED. THEY SEE IRAQIS
AS DETERMINED TO ACQUIRE SOME POSITION ON WESTERN SIDE OF GULF
OPPOSITE IRAN ALTHOUGH STEADILY INCREASING PRESSURE AND
WAR OF NERVES. IN MEANTIME, WITH IRAQI AND KUWAITI FORCES MILLING
ABOUT IN CLOSE PROXIMITY ALONG NORTHERN BORDER, OCCASIONAL
"DUST-UPS" BETWEEN THEM CLEARLY CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

STOLTZFUS

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NNN

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